

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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CEA-01 ACDA-10 COME-00 /111 W

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FM AMCONSUL NICE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1051

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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TAGS : PFOR, PINT, FR, BE, DA, GW, IT, LU, NL, UK, EI

SUBJECT : FRANCO-GERMAN BI-ANNUAL SUMMIT, NICE

REF : NICE 060

1. DURING THE FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT MEETING IN NICE, CHANCELLOR
HELMUT SCHMIDT GRANTED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO JOURNALIST OF
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NICE-MATIN. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF RESULTING

ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON 2/12/76.

2. QUESTION : ARE YOU HAPPY THAT THIS FRANCO-GERMAN MEETING IS
TAKING PLACE AT LA COLLE-SUR-LOUP ?

REPLY : --- YES. ACTUALLY, NOWHERE IS IT WRITTEN THAT OUR
MEETINGS SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE HELD IN PARIS OR IN BONN.
UNFORTUNATELY OUR AGENDA DOES NOT OFFER MUCH FREE TIME FOR SIGHT-
SEEING ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA. BY HOLDING THIS MEETING IN THIS AREA,
WE ARE EMPHASIZING OUR AGREEMENT OF LAST NOVEMBER IN RAMBOUILLET,
CONCERNING THE NEED TO INSIST ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL AREAS IN
BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES. WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, DECIDED THAT OUR NEXT
MEETING THIS SUMMER WILL TAKE PLACE IN HAMBURG, AND NOT IN BONN---

3. QUESTION : DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE EFFICACITY OF THESE MEETINGS
WHICH HAVE NOW BECOME ROUTINE ?

ANSWER : --- SINCE THE 1963 FRANCO-GERMAN AGREEMENT WHICH SET UP
THESE MEETINGS, THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE
CONTINUALLY GROWN CLOSER, EVEN IF IN THE PAST WE HAVE HAD DIFFERENT
OPINIONS, AND EVEN IF THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE IN THE FUTURE.

I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING POINT : NEVER HAVE RELATIONS
BETWEEN FRANCE AND WESTERN GERMANY BEEN AS CLOSE AS THEY ARE
TODAY. WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, I AM A CONVINCED WORKER
TOWARDS THE PROGRESS OF BUILDING EUROPE : THE LINKS WHICH UNITE
FRANCE AND GERMANY ARE, IN THIS RESPECT, A STABILIZING AND 'CREATIVE'
FACTOR---

4. QUESTION : HOW DO YOU FORESEE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S FUTURE?

ANSWER : --- THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CAN NOW FACE THE FUTURE WITH A
GREATER SELF-CONFIDENCE THAN LAST YEAR. FIRST OF ALL, THE ENERGY
CRISIS WAS MOST UNEXPECTED BUT WE DID SUCCEED IN TIGHTENING
EUROPEAN 'LEVELS' AND IN CREATING A COMMON POSITION, WHICH WAS NOT
EASY. BUT THE LAST MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WHICH TOOK PLACE
LAST DECEMBER IN ROME, SHOWED THAT THE NINE HAD ONCE AGAIN A STRONG
COMPREHENSION OF THEIR MUTUAL POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

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DURING HIS SPEECH SOME WEEKS AGO ON THE STATUS OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY, MR TINDEMANS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,
INSISTED ON THE NECESSITY OF INTENSIFYING OUR COOPERATION. HE
CLEARLY INDICATED THAT WE CAN ONLY ADVANCE BY CONSTANT PERSEVERANCE.
WE SHALL PERHAPS ENCOUNTER OBSTACLES FOR WHICH WE SHALL HAVE TO FIND
COMPRIMISING SOLUTIONS, BUT IN ANY EVENT, WE SHALL GO AHEAD---

5. QUESTION: IN YOUR OPINION, IS THERE ANY ALTERNATIVE TO THE POLICY

OF DETENTE IF PARTICULAR ATTENTION HAS TO BE GIVEN TO THE SECURITY OF WESTERN GERMANY ?

ANSWER : --- I KNOW THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE PREDICTING THE END OF THE POLICY OF DETENTE AND IT IS ALREADY CONSIDERED AS A FAILURE. BUT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE REPEATED THEIR WISH TO REDUCE BY EVERY EFFORT, THE DANGER OF A CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, I DO NOT IGNORE THAT THERE EXISTS, BETWEEN THESE TWO LARGE COUNTRIES, CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES OF INTERESTS, WHICH ARE NOT GOING TO FADE AWAY.

AS FAR AS WEST GERMANY'S SITUATION IS CONCERNED, WE KNOW THAT OUR OWN EXISTENCE WOULD BE THREATENED IF THE POWERFUL NATIONS WERE TO GIVE UP THEIR POLICY OF DETENTE. THIS IS WHY WE WISH TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE CONTROL OF ARMS AND ARE WORKING TOWARDS THIS END IN VIENNA, AND ALSO TOWARDS THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF TROOPS, IN ORDER THAT A MILITARY BALANCE MAY BE REACHED ON A LOWER LEVEL, AND THAT THE ARMAMENT RACE MAY BE SLOWED.

THERE EXISTS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE WHICH RESTS ONLY ON THE BALANCE OF THE POWER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST---

6. QUESTION : HOW DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY, AND WHAT IS THE SITUATION OF THE GERMAN ECONOMY ?

ANSWER : ---IN SPITE OF THE CAUTION WHICH MUST BE EXERCIZED IN THE YEAR 1976, I EXPECT A REENFORCEMENT OF THE PRESENT RESUMPTION OF THE ECONOMY (REPRISE CONJONCTURELLE) LIKE THAT WHICH HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN WESTERN GERMANY LAST SUMMER, AND WHICH THEN TOOK PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES, IN JAPAN, AND IN WESTERN EUROPE.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTRIBUTING FACTOR, AND IF ONE UNDERSTANDS THE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT DEGREE OF INTER-DEPENDENCE OF OUR ECONOMY WITH THE WORLD'S ECONOMY, ONE UNDERSTANDS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US TO NOTE THAT THE INDUSTRIAL REQUESTS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAVE AGAIN INCREASED IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. ON OUR LOCAL MARKET, WE HAVE, SINCE 1974, PUT INTO EFFECT A LARGE PLAN OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURES, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE INVESTMENTS FOR COMPANIES, AND ALSO A LARGE REDUCTION OF TAXES, WHICH WILL PROFIT MANY CONSUMERS.

WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A NEW LAUNCHING OF THE ECONOMY BY INJECTING 30 MILLIARDS OF D.M. OF PUBLIC FUNDS. AS A RESULT OF THESE MEASURES, SINCE THE SUMMER OF 1975, PERSISTENT LOCAL DEMANDS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AND THEIR EFFECTS SHOULD CONTINUE IN 1976. BECAUSE OF ALL THESE POSITIVE FACTS, BOTH ON THE INTERNAL LEVEL AND EXTERNAL LEVEL, COMPANIES AND USERS ARE CONFIDENT ONCE AGAIN IN FUTURE ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT. MOREOVER, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

WILL INCREASE IN 1976. I WOULD ADD THAT THE INCREASE IN PRICES HAS GONE DOWN UNBELIEVABLY (4,5 TO 5 PER CENT AGAINST 6,)1 PER CENT IN 1975), AND THAT UNEMPLOYMENT SHOULD DECREASE DURING THIS YEAR. AS IT WAS LAST YEAR, THE REVITALIZATION OF THE GERMAN ECONOMY SHOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON OTHER COUNTRIES. IN 1975, WE WERE THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH INCREASED THE VOLUME OF ITS ACTUAL IMPORTS, AND WHICH HAS THEREFORE FACILITATED THE EMPLOYMENT POLICY OF ITS PARTNERS. THIS IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT, BECAUSE OF OUR INTERVENTION, SHOULD CONTINUE IN 1976.

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